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# RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

EFFECT OF LEADING-EDGE SWEEPBACK ON LIFT, DRAG, AND

PITCHING-MOMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THIN WINGS

OF ASPECT RATIO 3 AND TAPER RATIO 0.4 AT

SUBSONIC AND SUPERSONIC SPEEDS

By Benton E. Wetzel

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## L ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

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#### NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

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OF ASPECT RATIO 3 AND TAPER RATIO 0.4 AT

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#### SUMMARY

Wind-tunnel studies were conducted to determine the effect of leading-edge sweepback on the lift, drag, and pitching-moment characteristics of 3-percent-thick wings of aspect ratio 3 and taper ratio 0.4. Data for a wing with 45.0° sweepback, tested in combination with a high-fineness-ratio body, are presented for angles of attack from -6° to +17° at Mach numbers from 0.61 to 0.93 and 1.20 to 1.90 at Reynolds numbers of 2.5 and 3.8 million. Comparisons are made between these data and the results for wings with 19.1° and 53.1° sweepback reported in NACA RM's A53A3O and A54J2O, respectively.

Increasing the leading-edge sweepback of the wings decreased both the lift-curve slope and the variation of static longitudinal stability at zero lift with Mach number. In general, the drag  $\bar{c}$  oefficient at zero lift was decreased with increasing sweepback at supersonic speeds.

#### INTRODUCTION

As part of a program devoted to the investigation of low-aspect-ratio wings, studies have been made in the Ames 6- by 6-foot supersonic wind tunnel to determine the effect of various amounts of leading-edge sweep-back on the lift, drag, and pitching moment of thin wings of aspect ratio 3 and taper ratio 0.4. This paper presents the results of tests of a wing with 45.0° sweepback and compares these results with those for an unswept wing and for a wing with 53.1° sweepback, published previously in references 1 and 2, respectively. Similar studies have been made in the Ames 2- by 2-foot transonic wind tunnel and have been reported in reference 3.

### NOTATION

A	aspect ratio
ъ	wing span
е	local wing chord
ē	mean aerodynamic chord, $\frac{\int_0^{b/2} c^2 dy}{\int_0^{b/2} c dy}$
$\mathtt{C}_{\mathbf{D}}$	drag coefficient, drag qS
$\mathtt{C}_{\mathbf{L}}$	lift coefficient, $\frac{\text{lift}}{\text{qS}}$
C <sub>m</sub>	pitching-moment coefficient measured about the quarter point of the mean aerodynamic chord, pitching moment osc
$\left(\frac{\overline{L}}{D}\right)_{mex}$	maximum lift-drag ratio
• •	
М	free-stream Mach number
M q	free-stream Mach number free-stream dynamic pressure
q	free-stream dynamic pressure
q R	free-stream dynamic pressure  Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord  wing area, including area formed by extending the leading and
q R S	free-stream dynamic pressure  Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord  wing area, including area formed by extending the leading and trailing edges to the plane of symmetry
q R S y dCL	free-stream dynamic pressure  Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord  wing area, including area formed by extending the leading and trailing edges to the plane of symmetry  distance perpendicular to the plane of symmetry
q R S $\frac{dC_L}{d\alpha}$	free-stream dynamic pressure  Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord  wing area, including area formed by extending the leading and trailing edges to the plane of symmetry  distance perpendicular to the plane of symmetry  slope of lift curve at zero lift, per deg



#### APPARATUS AND MODEL

The investigation was performed in the Ames 6- by 6-foot supersonic wind tunnel. This wind tunnel, which is of a closed-section, variable-pressure type, is described in reference 4. It can be operated at Mach numbers varying from 0.60 to that for "choking" and from 1.20 to 1.90. Model wing-body combinations are sting-mounted in the wind tunnel, and the aerodynamic forces and moments are measured with an internal electrical strain-gage balance.

The model for the present tests utilized a 3-percent-thick wing of aspect ratio 3 and taper ratio 0.4. Leading-edge sweepback was 45.0°. A dimensional sketch of this model, together with sketches of the other models used in studying the effect of sweepback, is shown in figure 1. The profile used was biconvex with an elliptical nose. Coordinates of the airfoil are presented in table I. The wing was constructed of steel and was tested in combination with a Sears-Haack body. The equation of that body is included in figure 1.

#### TESTS AND PROCEDURES

For the wing-body combination employing the wing with 45.0° sweepback, lift, drag, and pitching moment were measured throughout an angle-of-attack range from -6° to a maximum of +17° at Mach numbers of 0.61 to 0.93 and 1.20 to 1.90. Data were obtained at Reynolds numbers of 2.5 and 3.8 million, based on the mean aerodynamic chord of the wing. Because of wind-tunnel power limitations, the maximum Mach number of the tests at the higher Reynolds number was 1.60.

#### REDUCTION OF DATA

Data presented in this report have been reduced to NACA coefficient form. The data have been corrected to account for the differences known to exist between measurements made in the wind tunnel and in a free-air stream. The corrections, which were applied in accordance with the procedures used in reference 5, account for the following factors:

- 1. The change in Mach number at subsonic speeds resulting from the constriction of the flow by the wind-tunnel walls.
- 2. The induced effects of the wind-tunnel walls at subsonic speeds resulting from lift on the model.





- 3. The inclination of the air stream in the wind tunnel. This correction was of the order of -0.13° and -0.10° at subsonic and supersonic speeds, respectively. Although sufficient data were not available to permit the application of such a correction to the data for the unswept wing of reference 1, the stream inclination for that model should be of the same order as for the present model. Thus, at a lift coefficient of 0.5 the correction to the drag coefficient would be about -0.0010.
- 4. The effect on the drag measurements due to the longitudinal variation of static pressure in the test section.
- 5. The effect of support interference on the pressure at the base of the model. The base pressure was measured and the drag was adjusted to correspond to that drag for which the base pressure would be equal to the free-stream pressure.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results obtained for three wing-body combinations, having taper ratio of 0.4 and thickness-chord ratio of 0.03, have been used to study the effect of leading-edge sweepback on lift, drag, and pitching moment. The geometric variables of the wings, sketches of which are presented in figure 1, are tabulated below.

	Wing	Λ, deg	A	Profile						
8	Inswept Swept Swept	19.1 45.0 53.1	3.0	Biconvex with elliptical nose Biconvex with elliptical nose NACA 0003-63						

Although two different airfoils were utilized, the differences were small, as shown in figure 2. It is believed that these differences did not obscure the effect of a variation of leading-edge sweepback.

Lift, drag, and pitching-moment data for the wing with 45.0° sweep-back of the leading edge are presented in table II for all test conditions. Similarly tabulated data for the unswept wing and the wing with 53.1° sweepback can be found in references 1 and 2, respectively. A portion of the basic data for the wing with 45.0° sweepback is shown in figure 3. An increase in Reynolds number from 2.5 to 3.8 million had no significant effect on the lift, drag, or pitching-moment characteristics.

The effect of leading-edge sweepback will be illustrated with results for the highest Reynolds numbers at which data could be obtained throughout the entire range of Mach numbers.

#### Lift

The effect of sweepback on the variation of the lift-curve slope at zero lift with Mach number is shown in figure 4. Increasing the angle of sweepback resulted in a reduction of the experimental lift-curve slopes at subsonic and supersonic speeds. The theoretical slopes for the wing alone were obtained from references 6, 7, and 8; wing-body interference was accounted for by the method of reference 9. The variation of lift coefficient with angle of attack is presented in figure 5 for the three wings. At a Mach number of 0.6 an increase in maximum lift coefficient with increasing sweepback is clearly indicated.

#### Pitching Moment

The effect of sweepback on the variation of the static longitudinal stability derivative  $dC_m/dC_L$ , measured at zero lift, with Mach number is shown in figure 6. Increasing the sweepback decreased the over-all center-of-lift travel with Mach number. This effect was shown to be most significant when sweepback was increased from 19.1° to 45.0°.

All of the wings had nonlinear variations of pitching-moment coefficient with lift coefficient at subsonic speeds, as illustrated in figure 7. In the Mach number range from 0.60 to 0.91 abrupt changes in the pitching-moment coefficient generally occurred for the models with 19.1° and 53.1° sweepback at lift coefficients well below the maximum lift coefficient. For the wing with 45.0° sweepback, however, more moderate changes occurred below a lift coefficient of 0.8 at Mach numbers of 0.61 and 0.81. It is interesting to note that the lift coefficient at which the pitching-moment coefficient of the wing with 19.1° sweepback increased abruptly was greatly reduced when Mach number was increased from 0.81 to 0.91.

#### Drag

The effect of sweepback on the variation of drag coefficient with Mach number is presented in figure 8 for several lift coefficients. In general, as sweepback was increased, the drag coefficients increased at subsonic speeds and decreased at supersonic speeds. The effect of sweepback on the drag coefficient at zero lift, however, was small at subsonic speeds.

Comparison of the drag coefficients at lift coefficients other than zero with those at zero lift shows that, when sweepback was increased, the drag due to lift was increased at subsonic speeds. An increase in sweepback from 19.1° to 45.0° resulted in a smaller increase in drag due to



lift than did an increase in sweepback from 45.0° to 53.1°, except at the higher lift coefficients at Mach numbers greater than 0.7. At supersonic speeds an increase in sweepback from 19.1° to 45.0° reduced the drag due to lift, while an increase from 45.0° to 53.1° resulted in an increase in drag due to lift. Thus, sweepback of the order of 45.0° provided a large portion of the benefits of sweepback at supersonic speeds without large penalties at subsonic speeds.

The maximum lift-drag ratio and range parameter  $M(L/D)_{max}$  are presented as a function of Mach number in figure 9. Increasing sweepback decreased the maximum lift-drag ratios at Mach numbers from 0.60 to 0.85 and increased them at Mach numbers from 1.20 to 1.90, as shown in figure 9(a). The gain in range obtained at supersonic speeds as a result of increased sweepback is illustrated in figure 9(b).

Although the effects of leading-edge sweepback on lift and pitching moment shown herein are similar to those reported in reference 3, differences will be noted between the effects of sweepback on the drag characteristics as shown in the two papers. This results primarily from a difference in the minimum drag coefficients of the unswept wings of the two investigations. The unswept wing used in the investigation reported in reference 3 had a biconvex airfoil, while the unswept wing of the present tests had a biconvex airfoil with an elliptical nose section. Studies devoted to changes in profile (ref. 1) have shown that, for the unswept wing, addition of an elliptical nose section to the biconvex airfoil results in a reduction of the minimum drag coefficient at subsonic Mach numbers and an increase at Mach numbers greater than 1.2. Therefore, in order to minimize the effect of profile differences, data for the unswept wing having a biconvex airfoil with an elliptical nose section (ref. 1) were used in the present study.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Wind-tunnel studies of three wings of aspect ratio 3 and taper ratio 0.4 showed that an increase in leading-edge sweepback had the following effects on the lift, drag, and pitching-moment characteristics:

- 1. Lift-curve slope at zero lift was decreased at both subsonic and supersonic speeds. Results at a Mach number of 0.6 indicated a substantial increase in the maximum lift coefficient.
- 2. The variation of static longitudinal stability (at zero lift) with Mach number was decreased.
- 3. The drag coefficient at zero lift was, in general, reduced at supersonic speeds. The maximum lift-drag ratios were decreased at Mach numbers from 0.60 to 0.85 and increased at Mach numbers from 1.20 to 1.90.



Results presented for the wing with 45.0° sweepback showed that an increase in Reynolds number from 2.5 to 3.8 million had no significant effect on the lift, drag, or pitching-moment characteristics.

Ames Aeronautical Laboratory
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
Moffett Field, Calif., Aug. 4, 1955

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- 6. DeYoung, John, and Harper, Charles W.: Theoretical Symmetric Span Loading at Subsonic Speeds for Wings Having Arbitrary Plan Form. NACA Rep. 921, 1948.
- 7. Jones, Robert T.: Properties of Low-Aspect-Ratio Pointed Wings at Speeds Below and Above the Speed of Sound. NACA Rep. 835, 1946. (Formerly NACA TN 1032)
- 8. Lapin, Ellis: Charts for the Computation of Lift and Drag of Finite Wings at Supersonic Speeds. Rep. SM-13480, Douglas Aircraft Co., Santa Monica, Oct. 14, 1949.
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TABLE I. - COORDINATES OF BICONVEX AIRFOIL WITH ELLIPTICAL NOSE SECTION [All coordinates for sections parallel to the plane of symmetry]

Station, percent c	Ordinate, percent c
0.75 1.25 2.50 5.00 7.50 10.00 15 20 25 30 40 50 60 70 80 85 90 95 100	0 .259 .333 .468 .653 .790 .900 .1.071 .200 .375 .1.469 .1.500 .1.440 .260 .960 .765 .540 .285 0
L.E. radius:	0.045 percent c

TABLE II.- AERODYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF 45.0° SWEPT WING OF ASPECT RATIO 3 AND TAPER RATIO 0.4 HAVING A 3-PERCENT-THICK BICONVEX AIRFOIL WITH ELLIPTICAL NOSE SECTION

(a) R = 2.5 million

K	α	C <sub>L</sub>	C <sub>D</sub>	Cpg	и	Œ	C <sub>L</sub>	СЪ	C <sub>EE</sub>	ж	α	C.L.	СD	C <sub>EE</sub>	н	α	$c_{L}$	СД	C <sub>pp</sub>
0.61	\$254 % # 848 548 548 548 548 548 548 548 548 548	365 267 268 172 040 040 020 .020 .020 .118 .192 .349 .435 .560 .567 .762 .862 .862 .871	.0234 .0345 .0494 .0837 .1248 .1719	0 001 001 0 002 005 005 015 015 015 024 024	0.93	75-66 -7-4-53 -7-4-1-1-1-3 -8-4-4-3 -7-4 -7-4	-0.487 388 284 088 046 026 023 .003 .068 .263 .364	0.0549 .0372 .0236 .0136 .0056 .0062 .0077 .0077 .0077 .0131 .0206 .0323	0.065 .044 .086 .001 001 002 001 002 002 007 043	1.40	1.36 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38	-0.382 260 133 069 033 .003 .003 .003 .013 .052 .118 .311 .314 .314 .768	.0146 .0176 .0230 .0304 .0397	- 005 - 011 - 024 - 036 - 054 - 069 - 085 - 115 - 142 - 163	1.70	5.4.26 -3.4.26 -3.1.36 -3.1	-0.256 268 157 055 055 057 054 .045 .045 .049 .200 .249 .200 .249 .397 .493 .574	0.0381 .0300 .0231 .0182 .0150 .0140 .0138 .0138 .0169 .0211 .0273 .0350 .0444 .0680 .0944 .0680 .0944 .0940	005 010 022 033 044 055 066 088 109 129
0.81	-5.69 -3.46 -2.36 -1.70 42 .01 .95 2.07 3.18 5.41 6.52 10.83 12.00 17.00 18.07	412 324 234 077 042 026 .001 .026 .036 .135 .219 .387 .481 .788 .844 .891 .909	.0302 .0200 .0132 .0094 .0077 .0073 .0073 .0073 .0175 .0265 .0356 .0356 .0552 .1362 .2300 .2797	.015 .008 .004 0 0 001 001 0 005 024 024 024 031 041 041 041		-5.40 -4.33 -3.22 -2.21 -1.38 65 19 00 3.00 5.24 8.37 10.50	.214 .293 .376 .463	.0355 .0257 .0191 .0144 .0123 .0127 .0125 .0139 .0139 .0315 .0426	004 011 025 040 057	1.50	-5.34 -2.29 -3.24 -2.20 -1.14 60 33 .11 .92 1.98 5.13 6.18 8.28 10.37 12.46 14.55	063 034 019 .004 .021 .049 .111 .229 .286 .344 .460	.0169 .0220 .0290 .0377 .0484	.052 .038 .025 .011 .006 .003 005 010 023 037 050 064 078 130 130	1.90	-5.34 -4.29 -3.23 -2.18 -1.12 59 31 .12 .91 1.96 3.00 4.04 5.08 6.11 8.19 10.26 11.34 11.41 16.48 17.52	185 140 049 027 016 .039 .016 .039 .176 .220 .220 .231 .351 .351	.0281 .0185 .0185 .0157 .0157 .0157 .0158 .0175 .0271 .0271 .0233 .042	.039 .029 .020 .030 .005 .003 .005 .009 .009 .009 .009 .009 .009 .009
0.91	-5.77 -4.65 -3.51 -2.39 -1.23 -4.43 -4.23 -4.37 5.70 8.87	266 171 085 046 027 .003 .029 .061 .153 .247 .366	.0345 .0215 .0135 .007 .007 .007 .007 .007 .009 .019 .019 .019	031 016 007 0 - 001 - 001 5 - 002 1 - 001 6 - 008 - 008 - 037 2 - 037 2 - 056 - 063		-5.38 -4.32 -3.27 -2.21 -1.16 36 -11 39 1.99 3.05 4.11 5.22 8.33 10.44	264210143070430202020202020202	2 .03462 .0260 .0260 .0260 .0146 .0147 .01	.077 .041 .026 .026 .003 .007 .005 .001 .005 .001 .005 .001 .005 .005		-5.33 -4.28 -3.23 -2.19 -1.60 -33 -1.11 .92 1.96 3.03 1.07 5.14 6.16 8.29 11.51 11.51	- 223 - 164 - 113 - 052 - 031 - 016 - 003 - 017 - 103 - 103	.03122 .0238 .0183 .0183 .0133 .0133 .0133 .0136 .0166 .0210 .0210 .0210 .0210 .0210 .0366 .0456 .0456	.048 .035 .023 .013 .014 .006 .003 .005 .005 .005 .005 .005 .005 .007 .013 .014 .015 .016 .016 .016 .016 .016 .016 .016 .016					

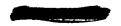
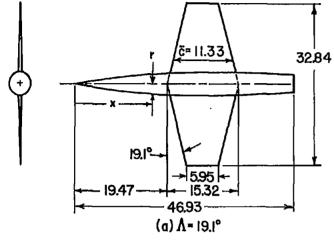
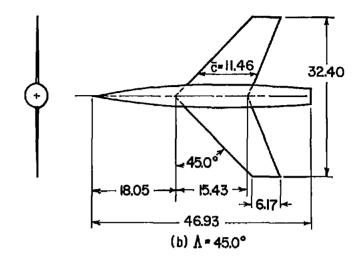


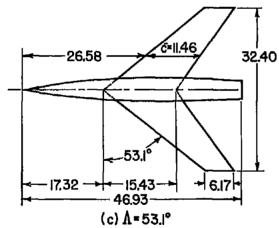
TABLE II. - AERODYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF 45.0° SWEPT WING OF ASPECT RATIO 3 AND TAPER RATIO 0.4 HAVING A 3-PERCENT-THICK BICONVEX AIRFOIL WITH ELLIPTICAL NOSE SECTION - Concluded

(b) R = 3.8 million

M	α	C <sub>L</sub>	C <sub>D</sub>	Cm	М	α	C <sub>L</sub>	CD	C <sub>m</sub>	М	α	$c_{L}$	СД	Cm
0.61	-5.48 -3.48 -1.48	-0.362 285 214 146 078 044 023 .001 .023 .057 .128 .199 .272 .372 .372 .430 .578 .676 .578	.0111 .0154 .0225 .0337 .0491 .0879 .1283	.006 .004 .002 0 0 0	0.93	-6.01 -4.85 -3.67 -2.50 -1.34 40 .45 1.04 2.20 3.38 4.55	-0.500 401 288 193 054 052 .009 .035 .078 .170 .277	.0128	.045 .024 .013 .005 .002 0	1.40	-5.53 -4.44 -3.35 -2.27 -1.18 35 14 97 2.06 3.14 4.23 5.34 68.56	-0.326 261 194 132 068 021 .006 .058 .124 .187 .252 .318 .380	0.0449 .0342 .0258 .0201 .0154 .0151 .0150 .0153 .0160 .0193 .0243 .0406 .0522 .0819	0.070 .055 .039 .026 .013 .007 .002 006 012 025 038 053 068 0683
.81	\$75,544 \$15,56	414 327 342 163 054 057 083 064 148 327 388 347 388 347 388 348 -	.0087 .0094 .0119 .0172 .0258 .0401		1.20	5.4.5.300.5.6.4.9888.8.938. -5.4.7.4.1.1.2.2.3.8.8.8.9.3.8.2.3.2.3	400 320 237 158 036 026 026 029 .067 144 336 366 366	.0145 .0154 .0184 .0237 .0319	.080 .062 .044 .029 .015 .005 0012 005 045 045 057 057	1.50	-5.50 -4.42 -3.34 -2.16 -1.18 63 352 .41 .96 2.05 3.13 4.29 6.36 8.51	299 241 181 123 063 019 .006 .023 .054 .116 .175 .233 .294 .352 .463	.0419 .0324 .0248 .0194 .0159 .0150 .0147 .0149 .0155 .0301 .0301 .0498	.064 .051 .037 .025 .012 .003 004 005 011 024 037 054 054 054
.91	-5.00 -5.66 -2.49 -1.33 -1.49 -1.33 -1.49 -1.33 -1.49 -1.35 -1.35 -1.86	- 455 - 218 - 218 - 218 - 25 - 25 - 25 - 25 - 25 - 25 - 25 - 25	.0544 .0370 .0220 .0143 .0101 .0086 .0087 .0096 .0129 .0129 .01305 .0482 .0689	001 002 004 011 018 035 058	1.30	647889455445565548 547889455445565548 54784111 034568	354 285 211 -1.42 074 028 .062 .062 .133 .204 .347 .416	.0155 .0163 .0194 .0245 .0320	072	1.60	-5.50 -3.35 -2.17 -3.35 -1.62 -3.14 -3.54 -3.14 -3.118 -3.318 -3.118 -3.33 -3.118 -3.33 -3.118 -3.33 -3.45 -	280 226 171 117 061 018 .007 .023 .051 .108 .162 .217 .272 .328 .431 .497	.0\$10 .0317 .02\$2 .0187 .0159 .01\$1 .01\$1 .01\$7 .025 .0291 .0373 .0477 .0731	.061 .048 .036 .024 .004 005 011 023 035 035 072 079 079







Equation for body radius:  $r = r_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{2x}{\lambda}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{4}}$ Maximum radius,  $r_0 = 2.38$ Length for closure,  $\lambda = 59.50$ 

All dimensions in inches unless otherwise noted

Figure 1.- Dimensional sketches of models.

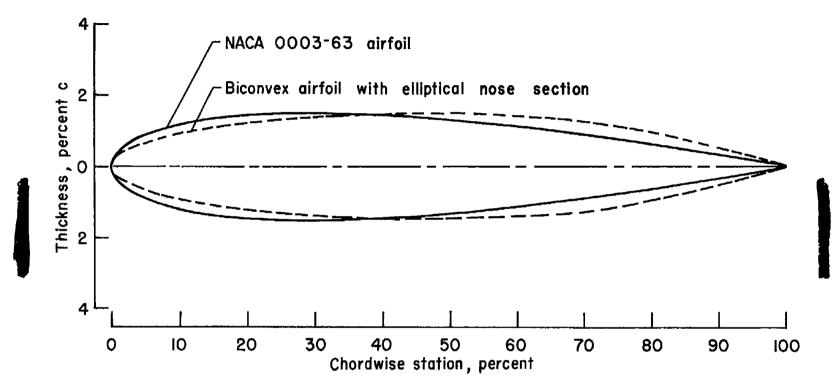


Figure 2.- Comparison of thickness distributions for an NACA 0003-63 airfoil and a biconvex airfoil with an elliptical nose section.

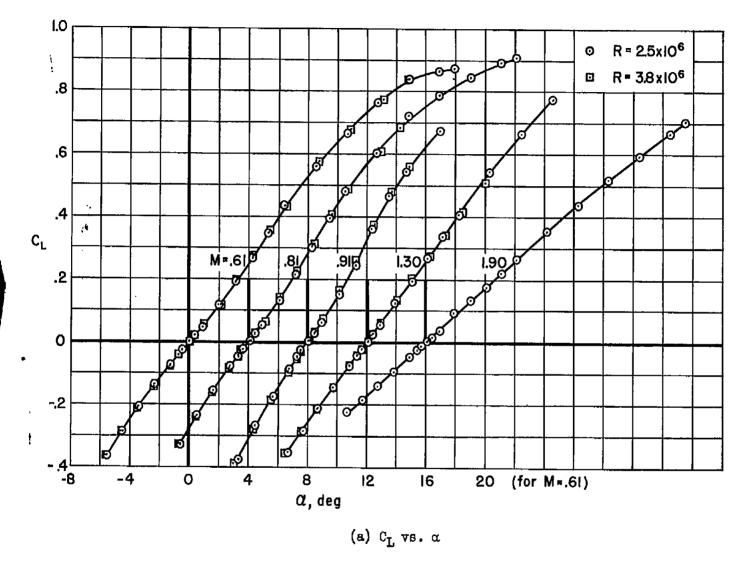
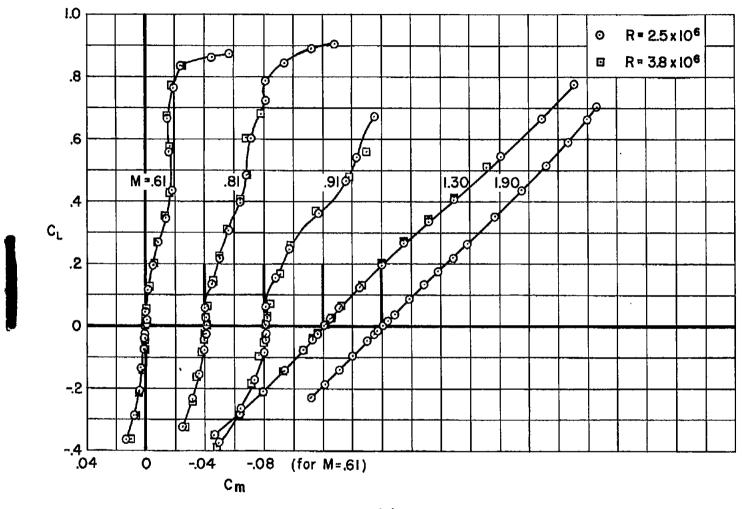


Figure 3.- Aerodynamic characteristics of a wing-body combination employing a wing of aspect ratio 3 with  $45.0^{\circ}$  sweepback of the leading edge and a taper ratio 0.4.



(b) CL vs. Cm

Figure 3.- Continued.

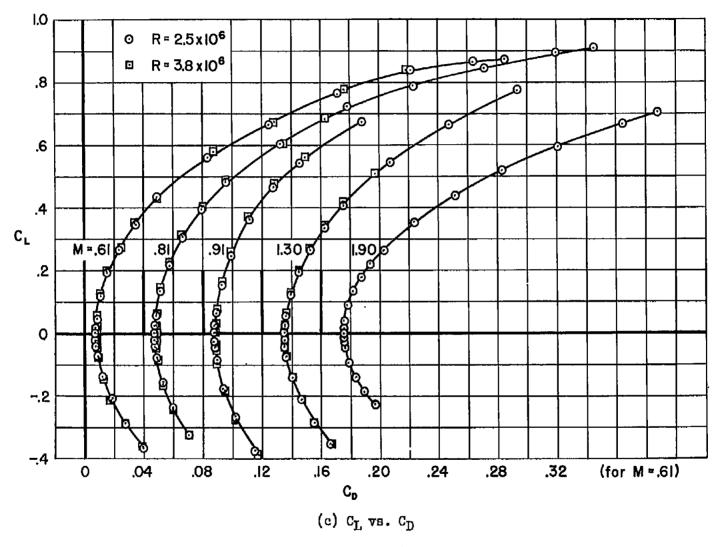


Figure 3.- Concluded.

**NACA RM А55НО4а** 

Figure 4.- Effect of leading-edge sweepback on the variation with Mach number of the theoretical and experimental lift-curve slopes at zero lift.

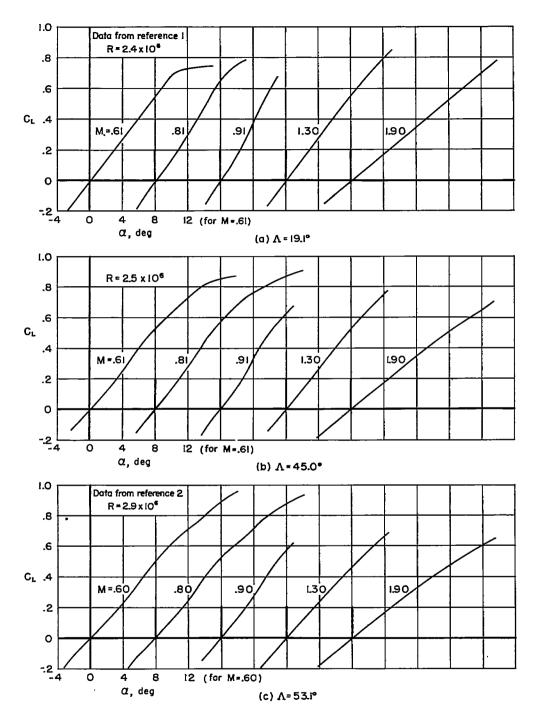


Figure 5.- Variation of lift coefficient with angle of attack for wings having  $19.1^{\circ}$ ,  $45.0^{\circ}$ , and  $53.1^{\circ}$  sweepback of the leading edge.



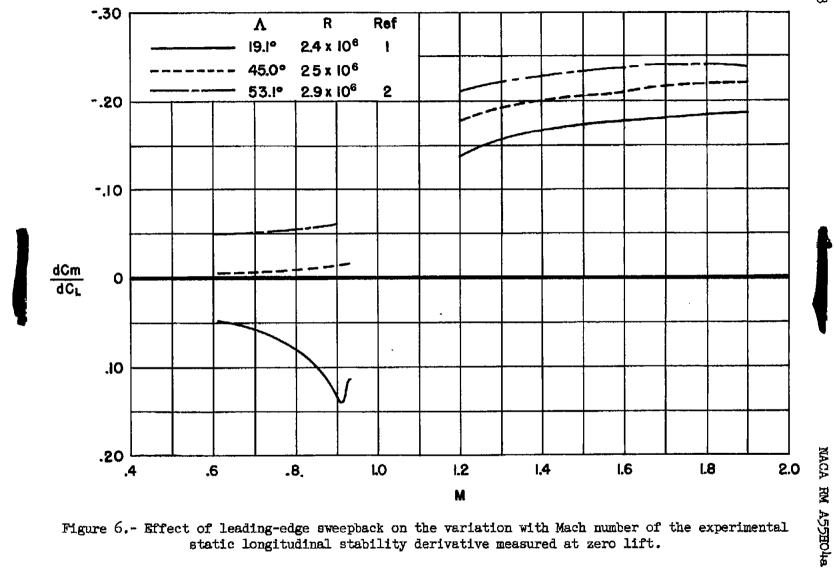


Figure 6.- Effect of leading-edge sweepback on the variation with Mach number of the experimental static longitudinal stability derivative measured at zero lift.

-.2 L .04

0

-.04

 $c_{m}$ 

-.08 -.12 (for M=.60)

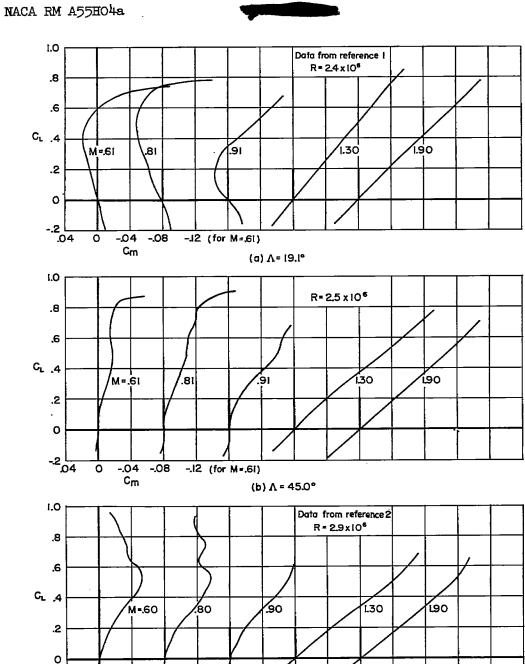


Figure 7.- Variation of pitching-moment coefficient with lift coefficient for wings having 19.1°, 45.0°, and 53.1° sweepback of the leading edge.

(c)  $\Lambda = 53.1^{\circ}$ 

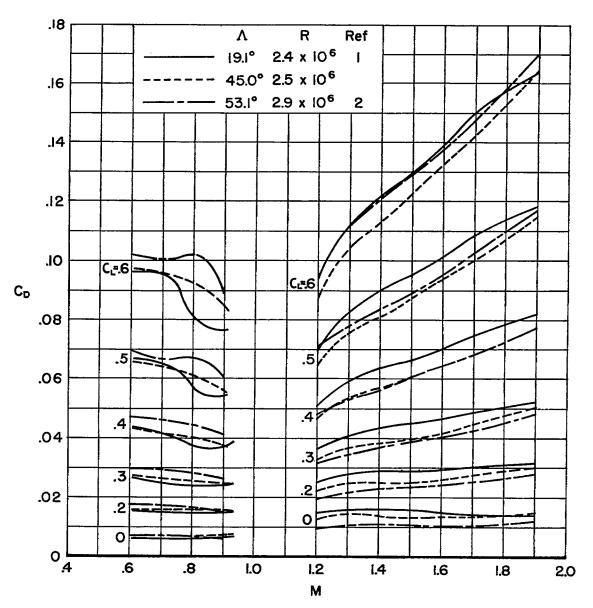


Figure 8.- Effect of leading-edge sweepback on the variation with Mach number of the drag coefficient measured at various lift coefficients.



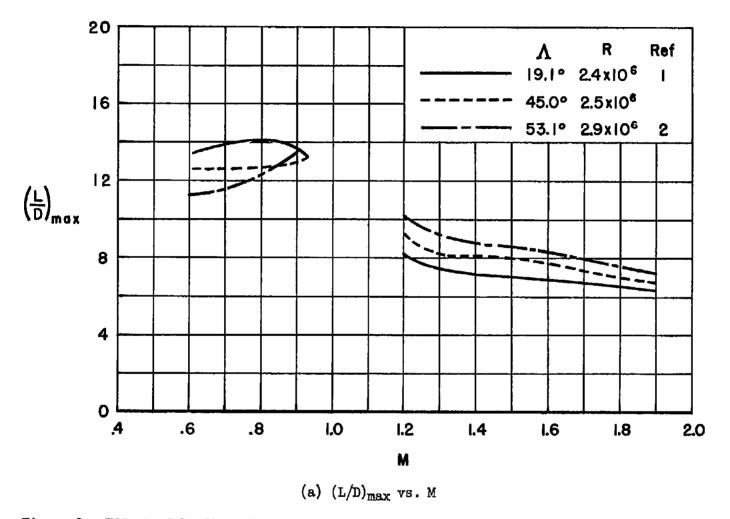
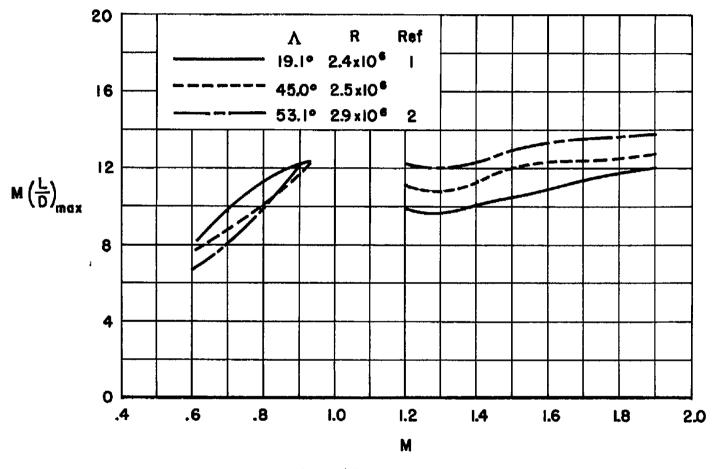


Figure 9.- Effect of leading-edge sweepback on the variation with Mach number of the maximum lift-drag ratio and the range parameter  $M(L/D)_{max}$ .



(b)  $M(L/D)_{max}$  vs. M

Figure 9.- Concluded

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